

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

EMERALD WILSON-BEY,

Plaintiff,

v.

CORRECTIONS CORP. AMERICA,
et al.,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:22-cv-00493-ART-BNW

ORDER

I. DISCUSSION

Plaintiff Emerald Wilson-Bey initiated this case with an incomplete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* (“IFP application”) and a civil rights complaint. (ECF Nos. 1, 1-1.) The Court denied the incomplete IFP application and ordered Plaintiff to file a complete IFP application within 60 days. (ECF No. 3.) Plaintiff did not file a complete IFP application, or otherwise respond to the Court’s order, and the Court dismissed this case without prejudice. (ECF No. 5.)

Plaintiff has filed a motion requesting that this case be sealed “for privacy, defamatory and also exploitative reasons.” (ECF No. 7.) Historically, courts have recognized a general right to inspect and copy public records and documents, including judicial records and documents.” *See Kamakana v. City and County of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 2006) (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). Documents that have been traditionally kept secret, including grand jury transcripts and warrant materials in a pre-indictment investigation, come within an exception to the general right of public access. *See id.* Otherwise, “a strong presumption in favor of access is the starting point.” *Id.* (internal quotation marks and citation omitted).

“A party seeking to seal a judicial record then bears the burden of overcoming this strong presumption by meeting the ‘compelling reasons’

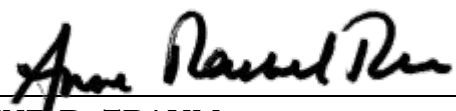
1 standard,” which means the party must “articulate[] compelling reasons
2 supported by specific factual findings . . . that outweigh the general history of
3 access and the public policies favoring disclosure.” *Id.* (internal quotation marks
4 and citations omitted). “In general, ‘compelling reasons’ sufficient to outweigh
5 the public’s interest in disclosure and justify sealing court records exist when
6 such ‘court files might have become a vehicle for improper purposes,’ such as the
7 use of records to gratify private spite, promote public scandal, circulate libelous
8 statements, or release trade secrets.” *Id.* at 1179.

9 Plaintiff’s vague reference to privacy, defamation, and exploitation is not a
10 sufficiently compelling reason to seal any records in this case. The only records
11 in this case are Plaintiff’s complaint, and the Court’s orders. Plaintiff does not
12 explain how any of these records have, or could, become a vehicle for an improper
13 purpose. Accordingly, Plaintiff’s motion is denied without prejudice.

14 **II. CONCLUSION**

15 It is therefore ordered that Plaintiff’s motion to seal this case (ECF No. 7) is
16 denied.

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18 DATED THIS 20th day of December 2022.

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21 ANNE R. TRAUM
22 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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